



**DIVISION OF STATE LANDS & FORESTRY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
ROOM 411 EMPIRE BUILDING  
231 EAST 400 SOUTH  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111  
(801) 533-5381

file Tosco  
ACT/047/001

Scott M. Matheson  
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Tosco Development Cooperation  
c/o Fabian & Clendenin  
800 Contential Bank Building  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

October 19, 1981

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RE: Exploration of ML's 16278, 20640 Oil Shale

You may proceed with exploration on the above numbered leases as outlined in your notification dated 10-16-81, on the condition of the following:

1. All other parties having a legal interest in the lands are first notified to resolve problems of access or land use conflict.
2. The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining is first notified in compliance with the Utah Mineral Land Reclamation Act.
3. Compliance with the State of Utah Antiquities Act, forbidding disturbance of archaeological, historical, or paleontological remains and immediate suspension of operations and notification of the Division of State History and the Division of State Lands in the event such remains are encountered.
4. Compliance with all other State laws, regulations, and lease terms governing your activity, including site reclamation to the satisfaction of the Division of State Lands.
5. The Division of State Lands is notified no later than 30 days after reclamation is complete.
6. The Division of State Lands may request that this road remain in place rather than be reclaimed at the conclusion of operations.

☒ Environmental Coordinating Committee (ECC) review not required.  
Recommendations of ECC: \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

  
JOHN T. BLAKE  
MINERAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

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TOSCO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

1600 BROADWAY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202  
(303) 831-4567

October 16, 1981

Mr. Donald G. Prince  
Assistant Director  
Utah Division of State Lands  
231 East 4th South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Re: Notification by Tosco Corporation of Surface  
Operations on Land Under Mineral Lease

Dear Gayle:

Tosco Development Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tosco Corporation, the lessee of 20,600 acres of State land in Uintah County for oil shale, hereby gives notice of its intent to perform minor road upgrading work on State land it is leasing. The work will involve upgrading and minor realignment of 4674 feet of existing gravel road, including the construction of a culvert system over Cottonwood Wash, a small ephemeral stream which carries water only during the spring runoff season or after a rainstorm. This work is scheduled to begin in late November of 1981. It is intended to improve access to the leased land for environmental monitoring work and also for the construction of an experimental 16-foot diameter mine shaft to be sunk to a depth of 2400 feet which is planned to begin in the spring of 1982. Tosco Development Corporation is currently preparing a detailed proposed construction and operation plan for the experimental shaft project, including an environmental assessment. That plan will be submitted to your office as well as to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in a few weeks. Tosco Development Corporation proposes to do the very limited road upgrading work described in this letter in advance of its formal submissions regarding the experimental shaft project in order to complete the Cottonwood Wash crossing while it is still dry. If construction of the crossing is delayed until the spring of 1982, when work on the experimental shaft project commences, the annual spring flow in Cottonwood Wash may impede construction, delay

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the project and cause unnecessary environmental damage associated with construction activities in wet weather.

The balance of this letter addresses the specific informational requirements contained in the Utah Division of State Lands Mineral Lease Notification Requirements form dated August 10, 1981.

1. Lease number, land description, name of Lessee and operator.

The work will be done on Sections 32 and 33 of Township 9 South, Range 21 East, in Uintah County, Utah. That land is under State Mineral Lease Nos. ML-16278 and ML-20640 to Tosco Corporation, which, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Tosco Development Corporation, will carry out the project. Tosco Development Corporation will engage an outside contractor to perform the road-upgrading work. The contractor has not yet been selected.

2. USGS topographic map marking the location of all proposed drill holes, excavations, land fills, and road work.

The land involved is included in the USGS Big Pack Mountain NE 15' map, an excerpt from which appears on the first page of the attached drawings. The drawings show the location of all work to be done.

3. Description of the depth, size, or dimensions of all disturbances marked on the above map.

The attached drawings show the dimensions of the disturbances that will be caused. They include minor cuts and fills for realignment, the placement of six six-foot steel culverts in Cottonwood Wash, the borrowing of approximately 3,000 cubic yards of gravel from an off-site source, the borrowing of a small quantity of sand on-site, the installation of riprap at the crossing, and the use of a 2-3 acre staging area for a temporary office trailer, storage of the culverts and lubrication of the construction machinery.

Two D-9 Caterpillar tractors, one scraper and one or two water trucks will be used by about six employees.

4. The source, amount, use, and disposal of any water or fluids involved in the operation.

Approximately 10,000 gallons of water per day for 30 days will be used for fugitive dust control and soil compaction. The

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water will be purchased from a local contractor with an approved off-site water source and will be trucked to the site in 5,000 gallon trucks. In addition, about 100 gallons per day of potable water will be purchased and brought to the site on a pick-up truck for the workers. Portable sanitary toilets will be used. No water will be disposed of other than as indicated above.

5. A description of existing land uses in the immediate vicinity of operations.

The only land uses in the immediate vicinity are oil and gas exploration and production, and winter livestock grazing, primarily by sheep.

6. Any rights-of-way to be acquired to access.

Access to the site may be by the existing Uintah County Route 209, which provides access to Utah State Route 88 south of Ouray. Temporary use permits for the western part of the road in sections 27, 34 and 35, T9S, R20E will be sought from the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

7. Detailed plans for reclamation to include method of solid waste disposal, plugging of drill holes, filling of pits, removal of buildings or structures, contouring of surface, care of topsoil, and seeding of vegetation.

The location of the road improvements lies within the mixed desert shrub and riparian vegetation types. Soils in this area include Badland-Rock Outcrop Complexes, gravelly loams and loamy sands. The mixed desert shrubland vegetation type is characterized by low average cover comprised of spiny horsebrush (Tetradymia spinosa), shadscale (Atriplex confertifolia), galleta grass (Hilaria jamesii) and mountain peppergrass (Lepidium montanum). The riparian type is essentially a "bottomland sagebrush shrubland" characterized by rubber rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus), big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata), and essentially no grasses or forbs.

Prior to disturbances of new areas of the road, available and suitable plant growth materials will be removed and either stockpiled for a short period until new cuts and fills are available for resurfacing with the material, or immediately replaced onto freshly exposed cut and fill surfaces. If substantial deposits of rocks are located at the staging area, these soils will be removed, stockpiled, and returned upon completion of activities. Otherwise the disturbed staging area will be loosened to mitigate the effects of compaction and prepared for seeding. Disturbance of terrain will

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be limited to that necessary to conduct activities in a safe manner. The characteristic soils are poorly developed in the area and only limited amounts of suitable soils or weathered rock will be available. As much of the suitable, weathered materials as can be removed and replaced by conventional scraper equipment will be conserved.

During operations, all solid wastes will be placed in containers for periodic transport, by the contractor, to an existing, approved solid waste landfill. No wastes will be buried on site. As necessary to control erosion and sedimentation, flowing water will be diverted around disturbed areas and controls such as straw bales (partially buried and anchored) will be employed to filter sediment-laden runoff from disturbed areas.

After final grading of, and soil replacement on the road, ditches, staging area, and sand-borrow area, these areas will be seeded with a mix of native and adapted grasses such as galleta grass, indian rice grass (*Oryzopsis hymenoidis*), slender wheatgrass (*Agropyron trachycaulum*), basin wildrye (*Elymus cinereus*) and others, depending on availability of seed and growing conditions at the time of seeding. Seeding would be conducted to make maximum use of favorable moisture conditions.

Upon termination of road use, estimated to be about five years, the fill and culverts in Cottonwood Wash would be removed, the culverts hauled out, and the fill placed in a stable manner in the cuts. The road culverts outside the channel would also be removed. The road surface would be graded to blend as closely as possible with the undisturbed terrain, these regraded areas seeded as cited above for the cuts and fills, and traffic directed back to the original road located in the Wash.

8. A timetable of the conduct and completion of operations.

The work will begin about November 20, 1981 and will be complete by February 13, 1982.

Very truly yours,

Anthony L. Rampton  
for Tosco Development Corporation  
Fabian & Clendenin  
800 Continental Bank Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101